

HENRY GEORGE, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

OPENING THE FIGHT.

In all the years that he has served his fetish of protection on the the floor of the house, under the delusion that he was serving American industry—for the old man is doubtless as honest in his superstition as was ever the worshiper of any grinning idol—he has never heard such defiance of protection and all its works from any democratic leader. Time and time again he has hurled what he has considered the damning epithet, "free trader," but only to have the men at whom he hurled it deny that they were free traders and protest that they were not free traders at all, but only tariff reformers. Now at last the free traders have come! Now at last a democratic leader, having the confidence of a democratic president and the support of his party organization, gets up on the floor of the house and declares that protection from first to last is a robbery of the nation and a swindle of the workingman,

Henry Abram, who styles himself "the cobbler of Savannah and genius of the national finances," desires, through THE STANDARD (which, it is to be feared, he never reads), to announce to the voters of the United States that he is a candidate for president. His platform is the payment of the national debt with non-interest bearing greenbacks. This, he says, would make money so plenty that "telegraph, railroad and real estate would go up with a bound." The surplus he proposes to use for education, so that "no man will open his mouth against the tariff that educates his children by a tax on the people of foreign lands." Mr. Abram, having determined to run for president, is in need of a candidate for vice-president, which is all he seems to think he requires. If the right kind of a man will pledge to Mr. Abram his hearty support, the candidate for president promises to nominate him for vice-president, and, by way of making this offer more glittering, adds that as he himself will be eighty years old on the 5th of No-

Representative Albert R. Anderson of Iowa has taken a practical step in that direction by introducing a bill in which, besides aiming at getting back some of the money which was stolen from the people of the United States by the managers of the Union Pacific road and its branches, proposes to pay off first mortgage bonds of that corporation and to take possession of the road by foreclosure of the government's mortgage. It further provides that the road shall be maintained and operated as a public highway, open to any and all freight upon the payment of uniform regulated tolls for the use of the road, and for the periodical letting as privilege of running passenger cars as the award to be made to the bidder, binding himself to pay a stipulated

the Philadelphia judges sitting as a license court under the new liquor law are facing the number of saloons in that city with great vigor. In sixteen wards there are at present 3,134 liquor saloons of various kinds there will be, when the new law takes effect, but 736. The immediate results of this great reduction in the number of drinking places cannot fail to be good, though it is possible that some bad secondary effects subsequently have been discovered to

THE MORALS OF THE TARIFF QUESTION.

On all great public questions, the speaker said the religious questions; and he announced that he was a free trader and believed that it was irregular to restrict the free play of commerce, and manifestly unjust to favor individuals or corporations at the expense of the community.

JOINING ISSUE.

Yes, Mr. Chairman, the bill is an anachronism; it has no relation to this era.

None of the provisions of this bill are in

mony with the spirit of the age; for they antagonize the aspirations of the American people and are not adapted to facilitate their efforts to supply their wants, gratify their desires and provide for the future of their families. Its first effect, should it be enacted to law, would be to arrest the magnificent development of mineral wealth, of manufacturing power and of the diversification of agriculture now taking place throughout the South, and to paralyze the organized industries of the north.

For myself I will stand for the protective system and the maintenance of such rates of duties as will insure the development of all the resources of the country, increase the number of the industries, and perpetuate its national independence, commercial and industrial, as well as political.

Bradford's Club Adds a Clergyman to Its

Membership List.
BRADFORD, Pa., April 11.—We had a very interesting meeting last night. Mr. Brinton took the opposition and tried to refute our arguments. The proceedings became quite lively, though the best of good feeling prevailed.

Our club has had a valuable acquisition in the enrollment to membership of the Rev. S. Day of the Protestant Episcopal church. Mr. Day will doubtless be invited to lecture before the club shortly. B. J. BERNEY.

Gathering the Workers.

BURGESS, Mich.—A copy of your valuable paper, **THE STANDARD**, by chance fell into my hands before I knew that one of its kind existed. My sensation was that of joy and thanksgiving for the renewed evidence that all in all climes and under all circumstances conditions raises up strong voices to promulgate its truths. Single handed and alone in my place I have long denounced the tariff as protection of the strong against the weak, wrong against the right. **C. D. GRIMES.**

An Open Challenge.

The Philadelphia Henry George club charges "any political organization favoring a protective tariff," to a public debate on the question of free trade versus protection. The club's address is 1338 Race street, Philadelphia.

QUERIES AND ANSWERS.

The Law of Rent.

New York.—So many of my friends deny the correctness of my understanding of the law of rent, without convincing me of error, that I venture to ask you.

(1) Is not economic rent to be described as a natural tax on individual production, arising from the fact that in a progressive community a greater degree of desirability attaches to some portions of the earth's surface than to other portions?

(2) Wealth being produced by the labor of individuals, and it being a physical necessity that this labor must be expended in locations of different degrees of desirability, is it not correct to say that, strictly speaking, individual producers are entitled to all the wealth they produce, but only to the amount the same exertion would have produced on land below the margin of desirability?

(3) In the complex processes of civilization capital is used to aid labor, and it is not correct to say that an individual producing 100 on land 10 above the margin of desirability, with the aid of borrowed capital commanding 5 interest is entitled to call "his own, against all the world," is he not?

(4) Is not the argument in favor of the single tax founded on the recognition of the fact that, in a progressive community, rent is an inexorable law from which individuals cannot escape; but that it is a law which provides a fund (made up of enforced contributions of individuals) amply sufficient for public expenses?

(5) Your description is correct. As a greater degree of desirability attaches to some portions of the earth's surface, the owners of these portions are able to compel users to pay a premium for the privilege of producing there. This premium is a tax upon the producer who pays it; but it is a tax for which he receives an equivalent in the permission to work in a more desirable place than other people, whose natural rights are equal to his, must work in; and if the tax were equal for the common good it would equalize privileges.

(6) Strictly speaking, yes. For the wealth that an individual produces on land lying above the margin of production he is indebted, not to his labor, but to his advantage over individuals who must produce below the margin or not at all.

(7) I think so.

(8) Yes, except that the "contributions" are voluntary rather than enforced, and payments for a privilege rather than contributions.

Free Trade and Wages.

East Freetown, Mass.—The tariff reformers assert that the effect of a radical revision of the tariff would be to increase wages by increasing the opportunities to work. This is basing the increase of wages to labor upon similar grounds to that upon which the land tax advocates base it. Now, the question of an increase of wages under free trade is one which, to my mind, is not perfectly clear. If it was, I would not trouble you with this inquiry.

On page 217 of "Progress and Poverty" I read: "And in the United States, if we were to reduce public expenditures to the lowest possible point, and meet them by revenue taxation, the benefit could certainly not be greater than that which railroads have brought. There would be more wealth left in the hands of the people as a whole, just as the railroads have put more wealth in the hands of the people as a whole, but the same inexorable laws would operate as to its distribution. The condition of those who live by their labor would not ultimately be improved." Now, in view of the economic principle which I believe to be true, I wish to inquire whether we are to understand the increase of wages under free trade to be "as a quantity or as a proportion."

Suppose commercial free trade to be established without the land tax system—and business should be stimulated, and the cost of living reduced to the laborer, would not rent rise and the landlord reap the whole gain, and if so, how would the "poor people who have to work" be benefited?

Yours for the land tax.

D. S. TOSTER.

If you will re-read your quotation from "Progress and Poverty" you will notice that Mr. George says: "The condition of those who live by their labor would not ultimately be improved." This is true, and it is also true that a radical revision of the tariff would increase wages, both as a quantity and as a proportion. The increase of wages resulting from commercial free trade would not, however, be permanent. It was the ultimate effect to which Mr. George referred; but it is only the immediate effect to which single tax free traders refer.

If commercial free trade were established, land would be cheaper. The tariff benefits only land owners. A tax on coal makes coal mines dear and encourages the cornering of mines without using them. A tariff on lumber produces the same effect on lumber land. And so on. To abolish these tariffs would reduce the value of these kinds of land and by checking speculation in them bring such quantities into market as to still further reduce the value of all. You, as a land tax man, will readily see that a rise of wages would result from this. But the removal of duties, the consequent cheapening of land, the higher profits of capital and the increased wages of labor would ultimately bring about a reaction in land values and land speculation. Rents would rise, and as they rose land would become scarce in the market again. And as a land tax man, you would also see that this would diminish profits, discourage enterprise and reduce wages.

Commercial free trade in itself would benefit people who have to work, but its chief importance is as a step which the people are now ready to take and which leads directly and inevitably to absolute free trade in its broadest sense—free production and free exchange.

Unearned Increment.

Brooklyn.—(1) What constitutes an unearned increment?

(2) Are there any other unearned increments besides that accruing from the increase of land values?

(3) Is the taking (by an individual) of an unearned increment at any time in accord with pure justice?

(4) If so, when?

FRED C. GROS.

Twenty-five years hence electricity will have become the motor power of the globe. It will propel our steamships upon water, our engines upon land. It will heat our dwellings and do our cooking. The coal fields, now the scene of misery and oppression, will be desolate and forsaken. There will be little use for the fuel that now runs the machinery of the world. Man will be quite independent, and no Corbin will hold in his hand the destiny of thousands of men, nor can he, by his autocratic sway, stop the machinery of human progress.

else for the privilege; and now the price of such a privilege anywhere on the island is very high. This price is, strictly speaking, economic rent; but it is frequently called unearned increment, because it is a value that the owner does not earn, and appears to be something added to the land itself.

(2) The only thing like it is the value that attaches to other forms of monopoly. Sometimes through fluctuations of prices the owner of a commodity will find that its value has increased on his hands. But this increase bears no resemblance to the "unearned increment" of land.

(3) It does not follow that individuals are to be condemned for profiting by what the community approves. It is the system that is to be condemned in these cases, not the individual.

The Rice in Coffee.

New York.—I read in *Queries and Answers* your issue of the 31st ultimo Mr. Lucas's question regarding the prices of tea and coffee before and after they were placed on the free list, as spoken of by Mr. Edmunds in his article in *Harper's Monthly*.

To explain the reasons for the maintenance of prices after the tax was repealed, is it not a fact that at about the same time that coffee was placed upon the free list the Brazilian government imposed a heavy export duty which almost made up the difference? Another probable explanation is that the coffee plant takes some years to come into bearing, and if there were for any reason a sudden increased demand for the berry, it could only be supplied to the extent of the already existing plantations, and some years would elapse before the supply could equal the demand, when prices would, of course, fall to a normal point.

J. L. DUNHAM.

The Brazilian export duty has been referred to as a factor to account for the rise in coffee after the abolition of our import duty; but the facts do not seem to warrant this explanation.

In a recent issue the *Evening Post* took the trouble to make an historical presentation of the subject, from which we find that our import duty on coffee was reduced in 1871 from 5 to 3 cents a pound, and in 1873 it was wholly abolished; and that it was not in either of these years, but as long before as 1867, that Brazil imposed an export duty of nine per cent, which has been maintained ever since. When our import duty was repealed coffee rose in price. This could not have been due to the Brazilian export tax, for, as already stated, that has been long in force; but neither was it a result of the repeal of our import tax, as protectionists claim. The rise in coffee began about 1859, when it was worth less than 10 cents a pound, and continued until 1873, when it was as high as 19 1/2 cents, a difference of over 9 cents, which, as the *Post* truly says, was "a rise so great that the duty removed becomes too insignificant a factor." On the protectionist theory applied to coffee, the repeal of a 5 cent duty raises the price 9 cents! The proposition is its own refutation. The causes of this rise in coffee must be looked for as we would look for the causes of the rise or fall of any other commodity—silver, for example.

Your suggestion that the coffee plant takes some years to come into bearing is one factor to be considered; Mr. Eastlake's statement in last week's *STANDARD* that importations were kept down in expectation of the repeal is another; an increased demand is another; failure of crops is another, and the fact that coffee production is in some degree a monopoly is another. But whether the explanation be one or all of these conditions, the truth remains that a tariff on a competitive commodity adds to the price of the commodity, and a repeal of the tax diminishes it.

Rescuing War Taxes.

Kalamazoo, Mich.—Will you be so kind as to explain in the columns of *THE STANDARD* this scheme in congress of refunding to the states the direct taxes levied during the war? I do not understand it. How was it collected, and why should it be paid back when the indirect war taxation is still kept up? If you will explain what this scheme is and the reason given for it you will greatly oblige me. I have not seen anything in any of the papers which has given me any light upon it.

N. G. LESTER.

During the war several kinds of direct taxes were levied in accordance with the provisions of the constitution. For example: On one occasion a sum—I think it was \$20,000,000—was apportioned among the states according to population, and raised by a tax on real estate. It is now proposed to return this and others sums levied in a similar manner to the states according to the quota they paid. There is no reason for returning it. It would not, and in most cases could not, be returned to the people who paid it, and it would furnish a method of keeping down the surplus without diminishing taxation, and thus give the internal and customs revenues a longer lease of life. The latter is the real motive of the scheme, although the ostensible motive is to return to the people out of an abundant treasury taxes that they paid for war purposes. This, as I have already said, it would not accomplish, for the money would stick in the state treasuries; but if, instead of sticking there, it could go back to the people who paid it, that would be returning war taxes to direct tax payers, not alone without similarly reimbursing indirect tax payers for their contribution to the war, but actually at the expense of indirect tax payers.

Notes.

L. L. PELTIER, Montreal, Canada.—The clipping from the *Witness* presents no new objections to the single tax nor any of the old objections in sufficiently striking form to call for a special answer.

LOUIS F. POST.

Won't the Land Owners be Able to Corner Electricity Then, as They Corner Coal Now?

Williamsport, Pa., Record.

Twenty-five years hence electricity will have become the motor power of the globe. It will propel our steamships upon water, our engines upon land. It will heat our dwellings and do our cooking. The coal fields, now the scene of misery and oppression, will be desolate and forsaken. There will be little use for the fuel that now runs the machinery of the world. Man will be quite independent, and no Corbin will hold in his hand the destiny of thousands of men, nor can he, by his autocratic sway, stop the machinery of human progress.

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THE BREWERS IN A FERMENT.

Five Thousand Men Out-A Bitter Fight in Prospect—A Strike Probable in the Building Trades.

The action of the journeymen brewers last Sunday deciding to keep on at work and let the central labor unions of New York, Brooklyn and Hudson county do the boycotting of the brewers who refused to sign the new contracts; also the action of the Brooklyn central labor union in placing a boycott on the breweries of H. B. Scherman, S. Liebman's Sons, William Unger, Ferdinand Muench, Williamsburg, and C. P. Hawkins' Sons, New York city, have brought about the crisis predicted in this paper last week. At a meeting of the boss brewers, held on Tuesday, April 10, the following was unanimously adopted:

Whereas, A boycott has been placed upon several of the brewers of this city and vicinity, and the brewers of this city and vicinity having been instrumental in procuring and enforcing that boycott;

Be it resolved, Unless the boycott placed upon our product is raised, and we so notified through the public press by Monday, April 16, we, the undersigned, shall immediately proceed to reorganize our working force.

And be it further resolved, That in carrying out the above resolution we pledge ourselves to maintain, in good faith, any existing contracts with our men.

Men desiring steady employment, at good wages, as drivers and workmen in breweries are requested to register their names at the East Fourth street, near Court street, New York, between the hours of 10 a. m. and 2 p. m., on Thursday, Friday and Saturday of this week.

The resolutions were signed by seventy-nine leading brewing firms of this city, Brooklyn, Hudson county and Newark, and are certain to be endorsed by the brewing trade all over the country.

The employment agency opened by the association on Thursday street was crowded last Thursday, Friday and Saturday by applicants for work. About 2,500 names were registered. The men who registered were about twenty per cent brewers and the balance mostly laborers.

Last Monday at noon seventy-nine boss brewers of this city, Brooklyn, Hudson county and Newark locked out all their brewing employees—about 5,000 men—and informed them that those who desired to return to work on the employers' terms, as outlined in the strike list, will naturally not be taken on Tuesday morning. The employers nearly all remained at work. They held a meeting Monday morning and decided to give up their charter. This is a setback to the strikers.

The fight promises to be a bitter one. The employers say they are determined to win even if they have to keep their breweries closed indefinitely. Money is plenty on their side. The journeymen say they have money enough to last six months. The strongest cards the men can play are two. If all sympathetic men stop drinking beer and no drinking beer is sold, the brewers will be ruined by the untimely effect it will have on the business. If the saloon keepers will refuse to sell the boycotted beer, that will also help the men.

In the mean time the breweries are being filled up with new men.

The journeymen waiters and brewers of Chicago, 2,000 men, went on strike last Thursday, because of a circular issued by the brewery proprietors refusing recognition of the brewers' and waiters' union. At last accounts the men were discouraged.

Eight Thousand More Workers May Strike.

There is a probability of a number of strikes in the building trades. The tin and slate roofers and framers want to make new contracts for the coming season, to commence May 1. The roofers want four dollars for a day's work of nine hours, and thirty-eight of the employing firms have already said that they will not accede to the demands. M. Harman, who has the contract for roofing the new Gasvort market, has refused to go on with the work until this difficulty has been settled. The framers want forty cents an hour and nine hours, except on Saturday, when they want eight hours, and double pay for Sunday work. If these two trades strike they will directly affect 8,000 men, and indirectly the entire building trade.

Sowing the Seed in Washington.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 9.—The anti-poverty society recently formed here is booming. It is fast gaining recruits, although we have not yet begun to work systematically. We have set a great many to thinking about and discussing the single tax idea who never thought about it before. Mr. Charles Frederick Adams is one of the most ardent of our members. He is a clear, distinct and forcible speaker, and is ever ready to answer questions. Mr. M. Pechin addressed our meeting on the 9th inst. There were a number of strangers present who became deeply interested in his discourse. Professor Lester F. Ward of the anthropological society also spoke. He said he was not prepared to take position for or against the single tax doctrine, as a student of public and private business had prevented his studying the subject, but he did know enough about Mr. George's works to say that the author was entitled to the gratitude of all thinking men and women for having demolished forever the theory set forth by Malthus.

Our next meeting will be held in Grand army hall, on Pennsylvania avenue, on Thursday evening, April 19. Mr. Davis will deliver a discourse on "The effect of the single tax on the American farmer." A meeting will be held every Thursday at the same place, and all interested in the movement are cordially invited to attend. Gentlemen are requested to bring ladies.

WILLIAM GEDDES, M. D.,

221 E street, N. W. Secretary.

Seize the Opportunity.

TOLEDO, Ohio, April 15.—Dr. Alfred S. Houghton of Cincinnati called here last week in the interest of the Cincinnati convention in May. Of course we were glad to meet the doctor, but told him frankly how we felt about the matter. We don't believe that it is right and just to be crowded into a convention to nominate a candidate until after we have had a conference of single tax men to determine what would be best to do under the circumstances, and we can better judge what would be for the best after all our parties have made their nominations and declared their principles. The more I mingle with the people the more I become convinced that it would be shameful on our part to shirk the national issue and place before the people a good, true man as a candidate to be slaughtered at the polls. This campaign is bound to be (as I see it) now a fight for free trade principles on one side and "protection that don't protect" on the other. With the corporations, trusts and ignorance on the side of protection and the administration against it, the fight will be bitter to the end. If we had, by some hook or crook, elected a president in 1894, we could hardly expect him to do more for our principles than Cleveland is doing now in the face of the opposition.

Cleveland, by his message, has given us the inside track and an even start in the race. They own the horses, it is true, but we are the drivers, if we only will take hold of the lines and drive for all the horses are worth toward the single tax. I for one believe after mature thought that we ought to seize the opportunity and go into this fight as individuals, and in it advocate free trade and the single tax on land values in order to kill land monopoly. No one knows how much we can do for the cause until he has tried it, and it is by trying it that I have reached this conclusion. Let us place ourselves at present, at least, on the side of the administration. That act alone will have a tendency to give our ideas respectful consideration, and that is what we must have before they can ever be adopted. Therefore let us seize the opportunity.

We will have at least two delegates from Toledo to the Chicago conference July 4th.

A. R. WYNN.

A Composite Photograph.

Here are some of the answers given at a teachers' examination at Canton, Ohio, recently to the questions: "Who is Henry George?" "What principles does he represent?"

"An anarchist."

"Writer on free trade."

"An opponent of Governor of New York, and was defeated."

"Leader of the liberal republican party of New York."

"A lecturer."

"A communist."

"Mayor of New York, with peculiar principles."

"Advocate of disputes about the fisheries of Newfoundland."

"Commissioner of the fishery department."

"A worker in the movement for tariff reform."

"King of Russia."

"First king of England."

"A signer of the constitution."

"Political advocate of temperance."

PEN, PASTE AND SCISSORS.

The single tax men of Des Moines, Iowa, have organized a non-partisan tax reform association.

Teacher—John, give me a sentence containing the word contents. John—The contents of a cow is milk.

Ross Winans, the American, intends to give up his Scotch deer forests in Ross-shire and Inverness-shire, which extend over about 200,000 acres.

According to the *Hartford Courant* men who go south for change and rest find on the coast the dearest get all the change and the landlords the rest.

A new degree to be conferred by Harvard college next commencement will be in honor of successful merchants in Boston. The degree will be "D. D." which, being interpreted, means tax dodgers.—(Boston Traveller.)

The *New York Press* sports a headline, "Little Rhody redeemed," which means, presumably, that the state had been in pawn, and was now redeemed by the grand old party plunking down the cash.—(Manchester Union.)

Let no man pacify his conscience by the delusion that he does no harm if he takes no part and forms no opinion. Bad men need nothing more to compass their ends than that good men should look on and do nothing.—(John Stuart Mill.)

Among the latest inventions is a self-registering thermometer, which can be placed in a green house, and when the temperature falls to a point at which injury would be done to the plants an electric bell is set in motion and alarm is given.

Japanese composers have lots of fun bustling around after the 3,000 characters which make up the alphabet of that language. There is one case for all the characters, and it is stationed at the side of the wall. It has been estimated that a compositor in that country covers about twenty miles a day while at work.

Senator Brown of Georgia pleaded not long ago for a commutation of war taxes in behalf of American labor, and Senator Brown of Georgia hires state convicts at twenty-five cents per day to work his coal mine. Can these two senators be one and the same person?—(Jacksonville Times-Union.)

There is no telling what a petit jury will do," has long been a saying among lawyers. How true it is, the alphabet of that language. One man was suing another for five hundred dollars. The jury brought in a verdict for the plaintiff for \$5. On the first ballot they had stood: Five for \$1 for the plaintiff, three for five cents for \$5, one for \$5.50 and two for \$125.—(Atlanta Journal.)

Recently, at one of the local mission halls in London, two of the brethren were holding forth with zeal on the wicked ways of the world and desired to emphasize the conspicuous difference between the saints and the sinners, or the "sheep and the goats." One man was saying another for five hundred dollars. The jury brought in a verdict for the plaintiff for \$5. On the first ballot they had stood: Five for \$1 for the plaintiff, three for five cents for \$5, one for \$5.50 and two for \$125.—(Atlanta Journal.)

Most of the mines and a large part of the forests of Germany are owned by the government, which also owns considerable farming land once the property of monasteries. When the mines are worked by private parties a royalty is exacted. The forests are preserved for the use of the army of foresters, and the timber and wood for fuel are sold from time to time. Some revenue is obtained, too, by selling permits to sportsmen to shoot in the forests. The farming lands are leased periodically to some cases a piece of the established church is allowed a piece of ground expected to make his salary by letting it a portion of it.

Sausages, cooked, or half raw, highly spiced, are an essential of German cookery. In order to prevent the Germans from exposing themselves to a number of bad diseases incidental to pork, the authorities insist upon the pigs being examined before being offered for sale. A peasant was arrested for evading this law, and upon being asked to explain, said that he had a most accurate method of determining the soundness of pork. The pastor of the district was always hungry, so the peasant always sent him the first sausage made from each pig slaughtered, and a week later called to inquire about his health. If it was all right, the pork went to the market, and examination fees were saved.

New York capitalists are going to establish a silk farm near Jacksonville. Three hundred acres will be immediately planted in the morris mulberry, the variety of mulberry which is adapted for food for the worms. This tree grows very rapidly from a cutting and produces unusually large leaves of great tenderness and silky quality. This mulberry grows in far greater perfection in this state than in any other location with which they are familiar. In a very short time, probably within the next two or three weeks, they will begin to plant the trees, which they have already ordered, and will continue until 5,000 have been set out. The factory for the reeling, spinning and weaving of the silk will be located in Jacksonville, and all the raw silk after the production of the raw silk will be carried on there.—(Savannah News.)

THE TAX REFORM ASSOCIATION.

PUTTING ITS SHOULDER TO THE WHEEL, AND MAKING THINGS MOVE IN TEXAS.

An Encouraging Report from the State Executive Committee—A Petition to the Legislature for the Adoption of the Single Tax—Better to Be the Leaven Than the Lump.

Under the energetic leadership of H. F. Ring and his co-workers the tax reform association is doing magnificent work in the Lone Star state. The following report, issued by the state executive committee, shows the lines along which the association is working, and the measure of success they are meeting with:

The issuance of this report has been delayed by the pressure of private affairs upon the time of the members of this committee. This delay, however, enables us to state some interesting developments in connection with the work of obtaining signatures in Harris county to the petition to the next legislature.

In the first place, we circulated among a few favored friends of the cause here a subscription list headed by the tax reform memorial, with the following addenda:

We, the undersigned, agree, so long as it may be agreeable to us, to give each one the sum placed below opposite our respective names, for the purpose of providing a fund to be used by the executive committee of the Texas branch of the national tax reform association, in payment of the expenses incurred in circulating and obtaining signatures to the above memorial; said committee are to submit to us a detailed account of the receipts to and expenditures of said fund.

In this way we obtained in a few minutes the pledge of some \$35 a month. We then agreed to pay one man, whose love for the cause is such that he is willing to work for it on a very small salary, a certain fixed sum per month for his entire time. This party, while circulating the petition, also takes subscriptions for *THE STANDARD* and the *Labor Echo*, and gives us the benefit of his commissions, so that the expense of keeping him in the field promises to be very slight indeed.

Mr. N. V. McMahon, the gentleman whom we thus selected, and who, by the way, is the man who first thought of the idea of circulating the petition to the legislature, commenced his work last Tuesday morning, and by the following Saturday night he had obtained 327 signatures. Only two persons approached on the subject expressly refused to sign the petition, though quite a number requested time in which to consider it further, and of these several, after reading the tracts placed in their hands by Mr. McMahon, came to him without further solicitation, and eagerly signed the document. All to whom the subject was presented, with but one or two exceptions, became deeply and most favorably interested in it, and a number volunteered to contribute both time and money to the work. The fact is, we are simply astonished at the response which the circulation of this petition in this community is awakening, and we have not the slightest doubt but that within two or three months we shall have the signatures of a majority of the voters of the county who can read and write, and long before the next legislature meets we believe four-fifths, at least, of the names of the business men of this county will also be on the list.

Our experience in the circulation of this petition has satisfied us that the harvest in Texas is more nearly ripe than we had dreamed of its being, and we are now fully convinced that it is easily possible for the members of this association in Texas to secure from the next legislature the submission of the amendment to the vote of the people. If any one is skeptical about it let him start out with a copy of the petition, and see how eagerly nine men out of ten will sign it, so soon as it is explained to them.

We say that any man of common sense, who has himself seen the cat, can single handed, set the ball in motion in his own county, and secure a majority of the voters of his county pledged to this reform long before the next legislature meets. Can not each of you at least give a few Sundays' work to the cause? Can any one, on the Sabbath day, engage in anything holier or more acceptable in the sight of God? Try it next Sunday if you cannot get it at sooner. Put a lot of tracts in your pocket before starting out, for one or two should be left with every one whom you approach. Begin with the first man you meet. Don't go out of your way to get men of influence to start with. Such men often have such an exalted idea of their influence that they will not throw it on either side until they find out how the popular current is going. You will get them easily enough later. You will not circulate the petition long before finding enthusiastic helpers coming to your aid, as Mr. McMahon has found them, volunteering with enthusiasm to assist him. After you have made them understand the truth, give each of such helpers a petition, and before many weeks there will be dozens of men in your county working with these petitions as enthusiastically as yourself. If each of you will do what you consistently can in this matter, before the legislature meets, we shall certainly have the names of a majority of the voters of the state on our petitions.

Ten days ago this committee did not suppose it possible to do such a thing—now we know that it can be done, and we believe it will be done. The business men of this city, so far as they have been approached, are on the subject, with hardly an exception, are our quiet but enthusiastic allies. One of the most prominent of them has promised Mr. McMahon to contribute a hundred dollars to our fund, although he does not want it known yet that he is taking a hundred dollars' worth of interest in the cause.

The great advantage of this petition is that it changes an

THE STANDARD.

HENRY GEORGE, Editor and Proprietor.

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THE STANDARD is forwarded to subscribers by the early morning mails each Thursday. Subscribers who do not receive the paper promptly will confer a favor by communicating with the publisher.

A BATCH OF INTERVIEWS.

The Chicago Mail recently sent out its reporters to obtain interviews on the subject of the single tax from professional and business men not connected with the movement. On April 7 it published thirty-eight such interviews, a synopsis of which we reproduce below.

Twelve of the gentlemen interviewed declared themselves opposed to the single tax, the reasons assigned showing that they were either affected by their personal interests or in utter ignorance of the subject.

Ex-Governor John A. Hamilton: "I am against the single tax, as it would virtually be a tax on homesteads. I would rather reverse the proposition and not tax land at all, thus leaving the homestead free. I would place all taxes on capital and speculative property."

Walter M. Sempill, druggist, corner of Clark and Madison streets: "I don't think it a good idea. If a man puts up an improvement on a vacant lot he ought to be taxed more than he is for the vacant lot, and the bigger the improvement the more tax he ought to pay. I really haven't given the subject any thought."

W. C. Potter, jeweler: "Property in all forms should be taxed, whether it is real or personal. The present system is in principle correct, although a great deal of hardship is worked because personal property is not returned. Something ought to be done to prevent fraudulent listing of personality. If all taxes were borne by real estate no one would want to own any, and Chicago would be a deserted village. The land wouldn't be improved. It is the improvements on land that make it valuable. I am in favor of an internal revenue tax revised and for a revenue tariff."

E. Peacock, formerly a well known jeweler, now retired from business: "They are taxing real estate too much now. Why I've held vacant land on the outskirts of the city for forty years, waiting till I could get my figure on it, and really it has been eaten up two or three times by taxes."

George A. Tripp of Sidney Shepard & Co., wholesale hardware dealers: "Real estate pays its full share of the taxes now, more, in fact, than personal property does, because it is not so easily concealed. I believe that the last tax returns show that there are only about four hundred or five hundred gold watches in Chicago. The fault is that personal property is not assessed high enough. If real estate were taxed any higher there would be no inducement to people to invest their money in it."

Ex-alderman A. B. Cook, building contractor: "Workingmen would be taxed out of existence if public revenues were derived solely by land taxation. It seems to me that such a scheme would only result in making life easy for the millionaires. A man who owned \$100,000 worth of bonds would pay nothing, and the workingmen and middle classes would pay all the tax."

D. V. Furrington, ex-county commissioner and brick maker: "That is Henry George's scheme. I don't approve it. Land speculation, to my mind, is just as legitimate as any other business. Protection by tariff duties is what has made our country what it is and they must be continued."

Henry Stewart, clerk of Judge Altgeld's court: "It looks like a fool scheme to me to tax nothing but land. A man who buys a piece of property and builds on it ought to have the benefit of the added value on property he may own in the vicinity. There is plenty of good land in the country and people needn't talk about it not being obtainable at reasonable rates."

T. J. Kinsella, real estate: "Land is taxed too much already without talking about putting an additional burden on it."

F. A. Henshaw, real estate: "Such a tax would be too burdensome on landlords. Corporations would escape almost entirely, as but few of them own land to any great extent. The present system, I admit, is unfair in that railroads and big corporations have a faculty of escaping from paying their just dues. An income tax would be fair to all provided the property could be got at."

E. A. Cummings, real estate dealer: "Land pays five-sixths of all taxes already. It is on record that but one percent of the personal property in Chicago is taxed. A license system and income tax would, I think, do away with many of the abuses of the present system."

E. S. Dwyer & Co., bankers: "The present system of taxation is a farce, but a single tax on land values would make matters worse by allowing the big security holders to go scot free. A direct income tax, as enforced in Germany, is theoretically the true system. In practice it might not work so advantageously, however."

Six of the thirty-eight confessed they had not given the subject sufficient thought. Of these Judge Lyman Trumbull and General McNulta, receiver of the Wash road, said their first impressions were against it; Warren Leland, of hotel fame, was inclined to think it a good thing; Ezra J. Warner of Sprague, Warner & Griswold, wholesale grocers, said he had determined to read "Progress and Poverty," as he felt sure the editorials in the papers against it were written by men

who did not know what they were talking about; and with but one exception all thought it a subject that was coming to the front and was worth considering.

Five of the thirty-eight declined to commit themselves to an endorsement of the single tax. But it is evident in which direction their minds are tending, if indeed these have not already "got there."

H. W. Seymour, editor of the Chicago Herald: "The present tax system is as bad as it could possibly be. Federal, state and municipal taxes are all inequitable, extravagant and unjust, but I do not care to endorse the single tax, as it would involve too many changes and it is too remote. The thing to do now is to stop the private taxing power, which enables a few men to levy tribute on the many."

Joseph Kasper of Shourds, Storey & Kasper, jewelers: "The present mode of levying taxes is not right, but I don't know that a single tax on land would make much difference. The school lands are not valued at one-fifth of what they are actually worth, and none of the land on State street is rated at more than a third of what it would bring."

George Buck of Buck & Raynor, druggists, corner of State and Madison streets: "It ought to be tried. I wouldn't like to be committed to the doctrine, but it certainly ought to have a trial. I do think it is a matter worth considering by business men. I don't pretend to say I am competent to speak of it, but I think it is a good idea."

E. Baggot, manufacturing plumber: "I know of a widow with five children who kept a little toy and confectionery store near a school. She was taxed \$30, and her whole stock wasn't worth that much. This is a subject well worth discussion. I don't believe in an income tax. I have always looked on a personal property tax as a sort of a cheating scheme, but I think it is perhaps as good as any other way."

Charles H. Kingman, of Gray, Kingman & Collins, wholesale grocers: "I haven't given the subject the consideration due it, but I should think that all forms of personal property should be exempt from taxation when it tends to repress or discourage industry."

Our business the margin of profit is very narrow, yet we have to pay taxes on our stock at the same rate as other businesses where the profits are three or four times as large. The taxes on a large stock of our goods are very oppressive. I think the present system entails a great deal of injustice and should be reformed, although I don't know that I am willing to lay all the burden on real estate."

But no less than fifteen of the thirty-eight, as will be seen by the following, declared themselves in favor of the single tax:

C. S. Darrow, lawyer, 94 LaSalle street: "A single tax on land values would be an effectual check to state and national extravagance; would prevent inequality, fraud and perjury in our tax lists, would largely break up land speculation and monopoly and greatly stimulate production."

G. H. Loehr, jeweler, 82 State street: "I own some land down near the Calumet river that I hope to make some money from. When Hyde Park is taken in and the docks are moved down there, it will be worth as much as State street property. But the money I make will not be earned. The single tax on land values would knock out these foreign syndicates which gobble up big tracts of land that ought to be homes for our own citizens. It would be a great thing for the west, for land speculation is killing off legitimate business there, and this would knock that sort of thing higher than a kite."

A. W. Schultz, at W. C. Scupham's, druggist, corner State and Randolph streets: "It is the location that makes our rent so high, and it seems to me that if the taxes were taken off our stock it would make a big difference, and for the better. The tax being taken off the building, the rent wouldn't be any higher. I should like to see it tried."

Fred Ryther, with J. V. Farwell & Co.: "I think a single tax would stimulate trade all along the line and prevent recurring industrial depressions. It would also give employment to the surplus labor of the country which is constantly forcing wages down. I haven't given the subject extensive thought, but I can see great good in the application of the single tax."

Michael Ulrich, of Grommes & Ulrich, importers of wines and cigars: "It is a splendid idea. The present system of taxing a man's stock in trade and whatever furniture and comforts of life he has gathered together is unjust and ought to be abolished."

George Williams, broom manufacturer: "A single tax on land values would, in my opinion, solve the labor problem, abolish poverty and monopolies, and start an era of prosperity which would be healthy and lasting. The farmers of the country are robbed of more than half their earnings by the monopolists and the so-called protective tariff."

St. Clair Sutherland, court bailiff: "I am decidedly in favor of it. The rich man's lot on Prairie avenue would pay its proportionate share and the poor man's lot on Sacramento avenue would not pay more than it rightly should. I know a rich man who peddled tickets for a certain assessor. He wouldn't have done that for any other town officer. What did he do it for? I know and so do you. The present system is very unjust."

H. Webster, manager for Henry R. Worthington & Co.: "I know that on my little house in the suburbs I pay twice as much taxes as a friend of mine does who owns four houses. If taxes were on real estate alone I don't think I would be the one who would pay the most. It is undoubtedly true that a tax on real estate would be a great help to business."

Ed. Mandel of Mandel Bros., dry goods: "It cannot be questioned that it is far easier to get at the value of real estate than that of personal property. That cannot be concealed, while it is easy enough to swear that the furniture, pictures, pianos, carpets, etc., in your house cost only \$2,000, when maybe one picture could not be bought for that. It would certainly be more equitable and just for the man who owns his little home. As it is now he pays very much more in proportion than the rich man does. The proposed scheme would lighten the burden of taxes on the business men."

Robert Stevenson, wholesale druggist: "A personal property tax is a horrible thing. It is unjust. I pay one-third more taxes on my house and furniture than the man across the street, whose house is worth nearly twice as much as mine. It would be a great relief to business if the taxes on goods in the store were removed. What does an assessor who comes in here know of the value of profit on the goods? Nothing. The personal property tax is more onerous and oppressive than any other expense. It seems more like robbery."

A. Ryder, commission merchant on South Water street: "Business would go better if the taxes were abolished, on stock, on trade and levied on real estate. Here on South

Water street, rents are enormous: 'I paid \$3,400 last year for this store, 18 feet by 60 or 70, and the landlord is going to charge me \$3,000 next year. People who own land on South Water street can make an everlasting fortune without working. I think the people of Chicago ought to get the benefit of the land value here."

F. E. Nellis, South Water street commission merchant: "Isn't the personal property tax abolished as far as concerns the rich? It falls heaviest now upon those least able to bear it. The burden of taxes exclusively on real estate values would relieve business a great deal, and I think it a good idea. It would be a bad thing for those who held unimproved land for a rise, and that would be right. They should either be compelled to put to use the land they are holding away from other people or else let it go. We pay \$4,000 a year rent for a space of 26 1/2 x 145 feet and four stories high. The landlord hasn't done \$50 worth of improvement in ten years. It's awful. The tax on land values would bring down our rent and make our business better."

T. Mason, South Water street commission merchant: "The building which I lease could be paid for easily with three years' rent. I pay \$5,000 rent for a twenty-foot front. I suppose that the land on which it stands is worth \$3,000 a year to the landlord."

C. C. Strawn, lawyer, Lakeside building: "Present socialistic conditions and tendencies will be best met and disposed of in harmony with the genius of our republican institutions by the adoption of a single tax upon land."

Henry T. Jones, property owner and brick maker: "I have investigated the subject of this land tax and find a great deal of good in it. Everything seems to be concentrating into the hands of the few just now, and something ought to be done to remedy the evil."

It is certainly encouraging to find that out of thirty-eight business men, selected at random in Chicago, fifteen are believers in the doctrine of industrial emancipation. It is scarcely less encouraging to learn that of the same thirty-eight no less than twelve are avowedly opposed to it and not adverse to giving the reasons for their opposition. When once a man can be induced to cast about for arguments in support of the proposition that the privilege of licensing men to live upon the earth is a thing to be bought and sold and owned, he is not far from knowledge of the truth. If a man's face is dirty, the surest way to convince him of it is to get him to look in the glass.

MR. FUGGELSON'S CHILDREN.

The tragedy at Knowville, N. J., is precisely one of those abnormalities which are the despair of the student of social science and the delight of the sensational newspaper, and it is not surprising that the coroner's jury should have rendered the verdict that they did. For there can be no doubt that the death of the Fuggelson children was directly due to their treatment by their elder brothers, though there can be as little question that the elder children thought that in acting as they did they were only doing what was right. The case is altogether so remarkable—such a regular fifteen puzzle of psychology—and the local newspaper reports were so evidently influenced by prejudice, that THE STANDARD determined to send its own commissioner to Knowville to make a thorough investigation of the circumstances. The commissioner's task has been completed, and from his report we have compiled the following narrative, which we can vouch for as reliable.

Matthew T. Fuggelson is a man with a hobby. A widower with fourteen children, possessed of independent means, his hobby has been to bring his children up apart from the world, and to launch them in life with such firmly fixed principles of thought and action that they should never even be tempted to go astray. In politics Mr. Fuggelson is a republican, protectionist, and his children, of course, have been educated in that faith. His house at Knowville is more than two miles from any other dwelling and Knowville itself, as every one knows, is a peculiarly inaccessible village, only to be reached by a series of little railroads which run with small regularity at the best of times, and suspend operations altogether during an ordinary snow storm. It is probably some years since the Fuggelson children have met anybody from the outside world, save perhaps an occasional teamster bringing supplies to their secluded home.

The 12th of March found Mr. Fuggelson in New York, whither he had come on some business connected with his property. Of course it was out of the question for him to get home. He states that although he at first felt some anxiety about his children, he soon decided that the experience of having to look out for themselves for a time would be a valuable one. The house was stored with provisions and fuel enough to last six months or more; the blizzard itself was security against tramps and burglars; and Mr. Fuggelson philosophically waited for the thaw. It was more than two weeks before he finally got home. Meanwhile, strange things had happened in the lonely house at Knowville.

When they realized that they were absolutely cut off from the world for an indefinite period, the three eldest boys took counsel together and considered the situation. They had a good house over their heads, plenty of warm clothing, abundance of fuel in the cellar, and a store room stocked with provisions of every kind. Their father had provided for them with loving care. They were cut off from the rest of mankind as effectually as if they had been transferred to another planet, and they determined that during the period of their seclusion the household should be managed in accordance with those principles which they had been taught were essential to the well being of all communities, both great and small. "We thought," said Egbert Fuggelson before the coroner's jury, "that father would like us to show that we understood political economy. We didn't know it wouldn't work. We only meant to please father." So Egbert, the eldest, took charge of the

coal cellar, Charles assumed control of the store room, and Edward undertook to administer the bed rooms. There was a slight difficulty about arranging a vehicle of exchange, but it was finally settled that a box of pilot bread should be set apart as the basis of a currency, and neatly written notes were issued, each good for one biscuit. The younger children were summoned and the plan explained to them, and the novel system of housekeeping began.

For a day or two matters worked well enough. The younger children made the beds of the three eldest boys, cooked their meals, carried coals for them, and ran errands about the house, receiving payment in the pilot bread currency, with which they bought for their own use coals from Egbert and food from Charles, and paid rent for their rooms to Edward. Industries naturally became diversified. The girls took to cooking, chamber work and mending clothes; the boys carried coals, tended fires and blacked boots. At first every one was happy and the youngsters thought it great fun. But on the third day the principles of political economy began to assert themselves. Little Minnie, a tot of four years, was hungry, and went crying to Charles for food. She had no money, and Charles kindly but firmly declined to pamperize her by feeding her for nothing, pointing out to her the dignity of labor and advising her to go look for work. So Minnie tearfully besought Egbert to give her some coal carrying to do, and good hearted Egbert, though he really didn't need any more coal carried that day, generously allowed her to bring a scuttle full from the cellar at half price.

This was the beginning of the trouble. The next day there was one scuttle of coal less to be brought from the cellar—a clear case of over production—and the same number of coal carriers clamoring for work. Egbert consulted authorities, and felt it his duty to reduce wages. The children sought employment at bed making, and cooking, and boot blacking, and of course wages in those industries fell, too. The pressure of want began to be felt in the little community. There were plenty of bed rooms, and plenty of coals, and plenty of bacon, and hams, and potatoes, and canned provisions of every kind. Yet somehow the younger children found themselves half fed, and shivering with cold, and crowded into fewer and fewer bed rooms. The three eldest boys fared well enough—had each a well warmed room, with plenty to eat, and did no work save to pursue their studies in political economy—but they enjoyed these privileges with a clear conscience, because it was evident that by enjoying them they made work for the younger children and thus enabled them to earn their living. It was the general feeling among the whole family that the three big brothers were public benefactors.

Things came to a crisis on the tenth day. Five of the eleven younger children had sold their clothing to get food, and were huddled half naked, beneath a single blanket, in a fireless room. The other six wandered about the house half starved and almost frozen, begging their elder brothers to make work for them somehow. Prices of coal and food and room rent had been reduced, but nobody seemed any better off for it. Clearly something must be done. Egbert summoned Charles and Edward to a consultation.

The brothers ransacked their father's library for authorities, but couldn't find where they had made any mistake. The law of competition had been allowed full play in settling both wages and prices. Everything had been done according to rule, yet the result had been most disastrous. At last Egbert hit upon the solution. The whole trouble, he explained, arose from their father's short-sightedness. He had had too many children. The five little ones shivering beneath their single blanket were surplus population, who should have been provided for elsewhere, put into some other house, or, better still, never brought into the world at all. It was unanimously decided that this theory covered the ground completely; and it was resolved, pending Mr. Fuggelson's return, to form the five little ones into a pauper class, and support them at the expense of the community.

But, alas! this charitable decision came too late. Before Mr. Fuggelson reached home three of the children—Minnie, Jack and Nellie—were dead—killed, as the coroner's jury has since decided, by hunger, exposure and neglect. Whether the three eldest boys are to be held responsible for their deaths is a question which will be decided in a criminal court, and it would be improper for us to express any opinion upon it at the present moment. Mr. Fuggelson's remark, however, on reaching home and learning the manner of his bereavement, is part of the record of the case. "Good God!" he said, "couldn't you understand that I laid in that fuel and provisions and built that house for the equal use of all my children? What right had you three, merely because you were the eldest born, to lock the coal cellar, and assume control of the bedrooms, and monopolize the food?"

A COMPOUND CRIME.

Every now and again we hear complaints from the house of detention. The house of detention is a penal establishment for the punishment of witnesses. Any one who commits the compound offense of being poor and witnessing a crime is subject to incarceration in this institution. He may escape the penalty by giving bail; but as the friends of poor people are themselves poor, this hole for escape is very narrow. Indeed, it is no hole at all in

cases in which the poverty element of the offense is aggravated.

There are now imprisoned in the house of detention of this city several people who have been there for many months. They are unable to give bail, and cannot be released until the persons against whom they are expected to testify are tried. This is an outrage that ought to be remedied if possible. But in a growing city in which poverty grows faster than population, it seems impossible to suggest a remedy consistent with what a blundering printer in the World not inaptly called "the regular curse of justice."

There is one court, the special sessions, which devotes itself to the trial of all cases of misdemeanor in which the defendants consent to be tried without a jury. This court keeps fully up with its business, so that neither witnesses nor prisoners can be long detained awaiting trial. But it is doubtful if justice is not often sacrificed to expedition. At any rate, whoever takes the trouble to observe trials here will conclude that in deciding between guilt and innocence the judges have some method in which testimony is only a subordinate factor.

The court of oyer and terminer sits in the trial of criminal cases occasionally during the year; but it is seldom that any but star cases go there, and in the star cases it is not often that witnesses are required to give bail.

To the general sessions, therefore, the great bulk of criminal prosecutions go. Here there are four judges. The fourth was recently added. They sit every month, and except that they might open court earlier in the day, there is no ground of complaint against them so far as disposing of cases is concerned.

It is usual to attribute delays to the district attorney. But as his activity in prosecuting is limited by the number of courts into which he can bring his cases, this is hardly reasonable. True, he may select his cases, and by giving preference to those in which witnesses are imprisoned, modify that hardship; but it is as much a hardship to be imprisoned on a false charge of crime as to be imprisoned on a charge of knowing something about a crime, and if the district attorney gave absolute preference to prison cases it is seldom that a bail case would be tried.

So far as the long detention of prisoners is due to delay in the trial of cases, the district attorney cannot be held responsible, nor can the judges, except in slight degree. This delay is promoted by a variety of reasons.

In the first place there are altogether too many crimes on the statute book. Every petty regulation which the legislature undertakes to make is fortified with criminal provisions; and the legislature has undertaken to make so many petty and arbitrary regulations of private affairs that a good lawyer is more important than good motives in keeping men out of the penitentiary.

In the next place, the police justices, by whom every criminal case ought to be sifted before going to the grand jury, are in the main so incompetent that an astonishing proportion of cases that pass before them and which they send to the grand jury are defective when put to the final test.

Then when cases get to the grand jury, what with the multitude of crimes, and the incompetency of magistrates, and the greater incompetency of grand jurors, a perfect torrent of indictments comes pouring out into the district attorney's office.

In these circumstances there is little hope by expediting trials of even modifying the evils of detaining witnesses. More judges might be provided; but if there were fifty there is reason to suppose that the legislature and the grand jury would be equal to the emergency, and that even fifty judges would be too few to dispose of all the indictments that would be found. And if they were, the wrong involved in imprisoning witnesses would be only modified, it would not be removed, for it is wrong to imprison a witness even for a day. The evil is one of ten thousand others that are incident to our social system, some of which, like this, are aggravated by the tendency of legislatures to manufacture crimes and the anxiety of grand juries to turn the crank of our criminal machinery, but all of which would rapidly disappear if the preservation of natural rights and the punishment of natural wrongs were practically accepted as the chief purpose of government.

WELCOMING A SETTLER.

The Holden smelting company is a Colorado corporation, whose business is the smelting of precious ores. They have been, during the past three months, seeking a suitable site for their works. Had they been a smaller corporation, or a mere private individual, they would have been compelled, before beginning to do any smelting, to pay a lot of money to some one of Colorado's owners for the privilege of going to work. But as they propose to do business on a large scale, erecting a plant worth \$600,000 and crushing three hundred tons of ore daily, the case is altogether different. The establishment of their works will not only attract, directly and indirectly, a very considerable population, all of whom will have to pay competition prices for the use of land to live on, but will also, probably, determine the location of other industrial enterprises. And so, in place of charging the Holden smelting company anything for the privilege of going to work, the citizens of Pueblo, Colorado, present them with a bonus of \$35,000, while the Colorado coal and iron company are to give them what land they need for the erection of their works. The bargain has been completed, and Pueblo is rejoicing, while Denver and

Colorado Springs are biting their thumbs with mortification at having missed a chance.

It is a curious feature of the current economic philosophy that its laws vary with the size and importance of the matters to which they apply. When a combination of capitalists like the Holden smelting company propose to set a thousand men or more to producing wealth, it is eminently proper to give them—the capitalists, of course, not the men—the freest possible access to the land, and even to assist them in erecting their buildings and machinery. But when the thousand men want to go to work producing wealth, each on his own account, then the case is entirely changed, and the proper thing to do is to build a fence round the land, and allow no man to go to work unless he can first pay the landlord's toll. In the light of common sense, this seems a little ridiculous.

Suppose that New York were to do for individuals what Pueblo is doing for a corporation. Suppose she were to say to the tens of thousands who are standing idle within her borders and pouring through her gates, what Pueblo says to the Holden smelting company: "Take a piece of vacant land and go to work, paying taxes upon it according to its value." Wouldn't the suburbs blossom with market gardens and small farms? Wouldn't the vacant lots be built upon? Wouldn't storekeepers begin to do a rushing trade, and a hundred industries which now languish for want of a market be stimulated by a brisk demand? A thrill of life would run through the community, and labor and capital would alike rejoice in rising wages and increasing profits.

In early days, when a new settler moved into a neighborhood, the whole community rejoiced and welcomed him, though he brought nothing but his own sturdy arms; and if he had a wife and children, so much the better. He got his land for nothing, and people turned out to help him start in life; they built his house and plowed his ground, and if need were, fed him for a time, knowing that by aiding in his health production they were benefiting themselves. Pueblo is welcoming her new smelting company in just that way. Why shouldn't New York do likewise, not with corporations only, but with individuals as well?

THE TROUBLE WITH THE ROOM.

There is a lull in the "boom" in Salt Lake City, and the Herald of that town is seriously considering the reason. "We cannot believe," says the Herald, "that this depression is permanent, nor that the bottom has fallen from the boom. There is a cause for this lull, however, and it is one which may lead to the ending of the activity which promised to make this city suddenly populous and important." And then the Herald goes on to give the Salt Lake citizens some very sensible talk about what they must do to keep their land values rising, and make speculation in the earth's surface more profitable.

The real trouble, according to the Herald, is that everybody in Salt Lake City has been so busy speculating in land that they have neglected dealing in anything else. They have all bought lots for a rise, and they have flooded the country with advertisements and circulars telling people what a glorious place Salt Lake City is for a man to come to; but they have altogether failed to start any manufacturing or other enterprises at which the immigrant can work and get wages enough to pay his rent.

No manufacturing enterprise has been undertaken, no utilization of material resources has been tried; there is no extraordinary building going on; the lumber yards are doing no more than at other times; the contracting companies are not called upon to bid for work; the brick yards are active only in the imagination of their proprietors; and the number of men employed in the mechanical industries is no larger than it has been in previous years.

This sort of thing, the Herald cogently remarks, is all wrong. Land values are not permanently increased merely because speculators buy lots at fancy prices. Improvements must be put upon land; population must be attracted and given remunerative employment; and then indeed the price of lots can be maintained, and the boom go booming on. And in these words the Herald tells its readers what they ought to do:

Enterprises must be gone into and industrial concerns established. Natural resources must be developed and utilized, and that great source of wealth, labor, be employed productively. Land must be made worth its price by improvement and utilization. People must be brought here and given something to do. All the rich men in Christendom will not help the city if they only buy vacant lots to let them continue vacant.

The Salt Lake City Herald has started thinking on a dangerous line. If it keeps on trying to secure the development and utilization of natural resources, and the productive employment of labor, it will find that the chief obstacles in its path are the fences of the speculating landlords of Salt Lake City. It may then bethink itself that if the men who hold natural opportunities unused were abundantly taxed for the privilege there would soon be plenty of productive employment for labor. "All the rich men in Christendom will not help the city if they only buy vacant lots to let them continue vacant." Wouldn't it be a good idea, then, to arrange matters so that the rich men couldn't afford to buy vacant lots and hold them vacant?

We print this week the notable speech made recently before the Nineteenth century club by Thomas G. Shearman, and it is to be hoped that no reader will pass it by because it is long. Mr. Shearman displays in this the same power of logical reasoning and clear statement that has

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him eminence at the bar, and with which readers of the STANDARD have been made familiar by the single tax arguments from his pen which have already been printed in the STANDARD and had such large circulation in the land and labor library. This address we shall also publish as a tract, and it ought to do most effective work between now and November—work that will tell after this campaign. Mr. Shearman has put the tariff question in a nutshell.

An Appeal to Freedom.

What is this sad rumor flying from the Hub, whose pride is lying bleeding in the dust? What means this talk about "imported beans?" Once each seven years, while no Jove, stalks famine among the pods—Then the proud spirit of state careers And Boston scours the globe for beans! Shall fell Europe's pauper green, Invade the sacred Common's green, Strike down an infant industry And slay its tender to the sky? Forbid it, freedom! Let free trade Still the more odious be made! Show the imported bean, and then "God save the tariff" once again!

DOGS THAT FEED AT RICH MEN'S TABLES

A Bathing Establishment Devoted to Their Service, Where They Are Washed, Perfumed and Made Beautiful.

It is a pleasant thing to be a dog—if one has the luck to be a dog of high degree, and to belong to a master or mistress who moves in the first circles of society and treats a dog as a dog ought to be treated. Plenty to eat, just enough exercise to preserve health, no work to do and lots of petting—who wouldn't be a dog if he could only make sure of being the right kind of a dog and having the right kind of an owner?

Everyday people, who work for a living, and if they keep a dog, feed him on table scraps and compel him to arrange his own toilet in the back yard, have a good deal to learn about the way in which the idlers of society care for their pets. A recent issue of the *World*, for instance, contains a description of a canine bathing and toilet establishment, which is decidedly interesting reading.

The establishment, we are told, is a very exclusive one. It displays no sign or other external token of its business, nor are any ordinary dogs admitted to its privileges. No dog may enter unless his owner has been properly introduced by some patron of the house. This keeps the place select and avoids the risk of society's dogs being brought into contaminating contact with curs of low degree. Once admitted, however, the dog may take his choice of luxuries at varying prices, according as he feels extravagant or economically disposed. For twenty-five cents he may paddle round in the general swimming pool and be afterward spoused dry and combed. An exclusive swim, with the subsequent ceremonies, costs fifty cents. Special perfume for the brushes and combs used in obstinate snarls adds a quarter more to the tariff, and the most luxurious accommodations the house affords are to be had by a big dog for a round dollar of his master's or mistress's money.

There is a "visitors' book kept at the dog's bath house, in which are recorded the dogs' names and very often the treatment they receive. The *World* reporter took a look at this volume and copied out some of its entries. Here they are:

Nero, a big black Newfoundland weighing 150 pounds; leather shag; Florida water extra. Zip, blue Skye terrier, blue ribbon about neck, with matching owner's name and address; infant powder and musk; extra.

Centaur, large St. Bernard, collar of silver and leather showing name and address; oil.

These entries, the *World* man informs us, are easily understood by the initiated. Nero had his leash taken off and left with the registrar before going into the pool. Then he had a special dose of Florida water when he came out, costing fifteen cents additional. Zip left off his neck ribbon and medal before taking the plunge, was perfumed with a dash of musk when rubbed dry and then powdered. Centaur's collar was removed when he registered and he had a special treatment with refined kerosene oil, when his snarl had been otherwise concluded, for fleas.

Civilization is decidedly advancing. The world becomes every year a more and more delightful place to live in—for a dog—that is, for a dog of the right kind.

Factory Life in the Northwest.

A female correspondent of the *St. Paul Globe* recently visited several shirt, overall and similar manufactories in Minneapolis. In one place where over two hundred girls worked in one crowded room in which the air was poisoned with sewer gas from the closets which opened on it, she found girls making shirts, all but sewing the button holes and buttons for three and a half cents each. They were able to make ten or a dozen a day. In another part of the room, overalls were made for seven cents each—the former pair were completely for eight and ten cents per pair. The girls were subject to headaches from the bad air and often had to go out; in this case a pass was required from the foreman. One of the girls said: "Our foreman says we girls wear too many feathers and fine clothes and threaten to cut our wages, so we'll be glad to wear plain clothes by next spring; and when he meets one of the girls on the street who is well dressed he asks her where she got her fine feathers and dress, and says she didn't buy them out of the wages she earned here."

In other places the conditions were about the same.

A Debate That Business Men Should Hear.

A public debate will take place between representatives of the Brooklyn single tax club and the Randolph club of the Twenty-third ward of Brooklyn, on Tuesday evening, April 24, at the rooms of the former, Thayer's hall, corner Fulton street and Bedford avenue. The subject of the debate will be: "Are the chances of success in business as great in this generation as in the preceding one?" Messrs. J. P. Kohler, James P. Thompson and J. O. Hennessey will speak for the single tax club; Messrs. George S. Atkins, George D. Freestone and Fred F. Purdy for the Randolph club. All persons interested are cordially invited to be present.

At Work in Pawtucket.

PAWTUCKET, R. I., April 16.—We are steadily and constantly sowing the seeds of truth and reform in this place and the harvest will come soon. Last Sunday we had a very instructive lecture by Professor H. Garland of Jamaica plain, Boston. There is prospect of a very lively campaign in this place, and single tax men expect to get in good work for free trade and free land.

EDWARD BARKER.

THE WEEK.

Roscoe Conkling.

Roscoe Conkling died in this city on the morning of Wednesday, April 18. It is an old proverb that nothing but good should be said of the dead. Happy indeed is the man of whom, dying, little but good can be said. Such a man was Roscoe Conkling. His virtues were patent to all. His faults must be sought for if one would know them.

Whether or not he was the great statesman his admirers thought him, must be left for a future generation to decide. We of to-day are too close to the man and the events of which he was a part to do more than guess at the proportions of either to the other. But Roscoe Conkling has a claim to our admiration which it needs no perspective to appreciate.

For he was an honest man, amid the strongest temptations to be otherwise. He was honest in his honesty. He was little troubled about what others might think of him, but a great deal about what he thought of himself. While other politicians cared only for their records, he cared for his life. To be, and not to seem, was what he sought. He entered public life and rose to commanding prominence at a time when political leadership was well nigh a synonym for wealth, and he left the senate of the United States a poorer man than at the beginning of his career.

It is an evil thing for the republic when to be an honest man in public life becomes a title to distinction. But all the more is it a noble thing to have deserved that distinction. And Roscoe Conkling deserved it.

The Deadlock in the House.

The deadlock in the house of representatives was broken on the 12th of April, when a motion to adjourn was carried by a vote of 148 to 137. Although the vote took place on Thursday, April 12, it was technically the session of Wednesday, April 4, which was terminated.

The first skirmish of the coming battle between the forces of protection and free trade is thus decided in favor of the latter. The protectionists had every possible advantage in the contest. They had succeeded by a trick in getting before the house a bill in which all the worst features of "log rolling" legislation were combined—a bill which not only commanded the support of a powerful lobby, but also appealed to the interests of no less than twenty-eight states, every one of which would have derived direct pecuniary benefit from the passage of the bill. Although the bill was brought before the house on the distinct understanding that but a single day should be given to its consideration, they managed to expand one day into seven by refusing to adjourn, and consenting only to occasional "recesses." That in spite of all their advantages and maneuvers they should have been foiled in their attempt to force open the treasury doors is a matter of congratulation. Colonel Oates and the little band who have stood by him so steadfastly deserve well of the republic.

The direct tax bill, had it become a law, would have been but the first of a series of raids, which would rapidly have emptied the treasury. A cotton tax refunding bill would have followed, the overflooded lands bill would have taken \$25,000,000—there would have been a general scramble for spoils. The republicans would have gone before the country next fall, pointing to an emptied treasury as an argument against any reduction in taxation, and in the same voice accusing the democratic party of the extravagance of having emptied it. All this is now happily averted.

What It Cost.

The Washington correspondent of the *World* amuses himself by calculating the daily cost of the deadlock, as follows:

Salaries of members, \$4,500; speaker's room, \$12; chaplain, \$3; clerk's office, \$240; engineers and mechanics, \$25; sergeant at arms' office, \$15; doorkeeper's office, \$35; post office, \$70; committee clerks, \$25; official reporters, \$75; police, \$50; miscellaneous, \$320; grand total, \$5,950.

Say \$30,000 for the six working days. Well, after all, it was cheap at that.

The River and Harbor Bill.

The river and harbor bill, at all events in its present shape, is probably killed for this session. There was nothing to be said in favor of it, and everything to be said against it. The fate of the direct tax bill discouraged its advocates.

Minimizing the Issue.

Those who think that the coming contest is going to be over a mere question of tariff tinkering, and that the basic principles of protection and free trade are not going to be thoroughly discussed and compared, will do well to read a few of the utterances of the party leaders in Congress, in their discussion of the president's message. Here is Senator Morrill denouncing his war paint, declaring that a tariff for revenue only is a synonym for free trade, and shrieking that "Henry George has characterized the message as a deadly blow at the ugly fetish of protection." Then he goes on to say that "the protective tariff was originated, as it should now be maintained, by the far-sighted farmers and planters for their own special benefit, to create a constant and sure home market of consumers, to bring the manufacturer and the agriculturist together, and to enable the country to maintain two citizens where only one could otherwise find support."

It cannot be doubted that a protective tariff has vastly increased and diversified American manufactures and made their economical and multifarious production a wide and profound study among the people of every state in the union. It has excited the brain power of not merely the men of science, but the inborn inventive faculties of a great multitude of practical workmen, and has promoted their happiness and thrift."

On the other side comes Senator Coke, no less eager for the fray and not at all inclined to minimize the issue: "If reduction should be made in the tariff, \$5 of tribute paid by the people to the manufacturers will be cut off for every dollar out off from the revenue. The tariff out of which these results grow is the most monstrous system of taxation that this or any other country has ever known."

This big tariff protection is universally defended on the ground of the necessity of protecting American labor against European pauper competition. This is all that there is of the protection argument, and no effort has been made to place it on any other ground. But a more false, heartless and groundless pretext has never been invented to justify or cover up a great wrong.

If United States senators talk like this before the campaign is opened, what bounds will they be likely to set to their eloquence when their blood is heated by the conflict and the air is full of the thunder of the captains and the shouting? Avoid the issue! Sooner look to see two bulldozers in the very act of flying at each other's throats, lay animosity aside and amicably discuss a bone. The fight is on! And nothing but a miracle can stop it.

General Warren's Monument. On April 8, 1877, the Continental congress voted that a monument be erected in the town of Boston, to bear this inscription: In honor of Joseph Warren, major-general of Massachusetts bay. He devoted his life to the liberties of his country, and in bravely defending them he fell an early victim in the battle of Bunker Hill, June 17, 1775. The congress of the United States, as an acknowledgment of his services and distinguished merit, have erected this monument to his memory.

On April 11, 1888, the United States senate passed the bill appropriating \$15,000 to be applied to carrying into effect the resolution adopted 111 years ago. The unfinished business of the government is being rapidly disposed of.

Leasing the City's Wharves. Thirty-six one-year leases of New York city wharves have been sold at auction by order of the dock commissioners for \$80,175. The average of prices realized was considerably better than at the last annual sale. It is universally conceded that this method of administering the wharfage facilities of this city is an eminently just one, since it secures to the community that steady increase of wharf values which the community creates by its commerce. Precisely why the community should have a right to the whole increase in value of land utilized as a landing place for cargoes, but no right whatever to the increase in value of the land utilized as a storage place for the same cargoes, is one of those mysteries of current economics that are past finding out.

Showing Off for Charity.

The loving kindness of fashionable New York fairly overflowed on Thursday of last week, and the Hahnemann hospital got the benefit of it. A number of young men and women, more or less prominent in "society," danced in public at the Metropolitan opera house, and a large audience paid money to see them do it. The young men and women claim to have been actuated by charity in thus placing themselves on exhibition, and it is to be presumed the spectators went to look at them in the same spirit.

Another exhibition, which realized about \$5,000 for the skin and cancer hospital, was given by the members of the New York riding club on Saturday evening last. There was a grand entering procession, with flourishing of trumpets, a lot of marching and counter marching, a waltzing horse, and a few other of the more ordinary performances of the circus ring. The show was witnessed by a large and enthusiastic audience.

Recorder Smyth's Decision.

The manner in which the press and public have received Recorder Smyth's refusal to allow another grand jury to investigate the charges against Jay Gould and Russell Sage is instructive. Theoretically, at least, the recorder's decision should represent the wise and careful judgment of an unbiased judge; practically, it is assumed by very many people, it represents nothing of the sort. Gould and Sage must have been guilty of the crime they are charged with, because they are Gould and Sage; the recorder's decision must have been corruptly secured, because it was in favor of Gould and Sage; such is the unconscious train of reasoning in the minds of many men, not generally given to prejudice or hasty conclusions.

It is not the least alarming symptom of our social condition that men are thus losing confidence in the impartiality of our courts where the interests of any leading members of our corporation aristocracy are at stake. Mr. Smyth may or may not be a thoroughly upright judge. He is certainly a fearless one. Had he been otherwise the temptation to defer to popular clamor in his decision would have been well nigh irresistible.

The Woman Suffrage Bill at Albany.

The woman suffrage bill came within three votes of being passed by the assembly at Albany. One statesman, Mr. Tim Sullivan, explained his vote thus: "A month ago I intended to vote for this bill. Since then I have found two new avenues of employment of women. One is drawing spirit pictures in New York; the other is killing patent medicine bills at Albany. I vote no."

Then the house of assembly of the state of New York laughed.

Warden Walsh's Resignation.

Mr. Thomas P. Walsh, better known as Fatty Walsh, has resigned his position as warden of the city prison, and retires into private life until such time as he can be provided for in some equally profitable, but less conspicuous office. It was a mistake to make a warden of Fatty in the first place. It ought not to have been done. It wasn't merely that he was unfit for the position—most city officials are unfit for their positions. But there was an added something about Fatty—a flavor of gangs and low liquor saloons, and petty vascilities—that made his unfitness peculiarly conspicuous. It was right that he should be sent to the Tombs, but altogether wrong that he should be sent there as warden. The public gorge rose against the appointment.

Still, it is clear that if our statesmen use Fatty Walshes they must pay for them. It's all very well to talk about touching pitch and being defiled, but if you can't get along without using pitch you must touch it, defilement or no defilement. Fatty was a political necessity. His price was the wardenship of the Tombs, and he got it. But it is curious to see how all the papers pitch into poor Fatty—who in his administration of the Tombs has only obeyed the instincts of his nature—and have no word of reprehension for the higher authorities who have maintained him in his position for fifteen months. When a savage dog is allowed to run at large, it is customary to blame his owner for not keeping him chained up. But principles of that kind have no force in politics.

Two years ago Mr. Walsh wanted to go to congress and had arranged matters in his district to give himself the democratic nomination. But ex-Mayor Cooper and prospective Mayor Hewitt wanted to have young General Bryce, the son-in-law of one and the nephew-in-law of the other, go to congress. So, as was understood at the time, a "deal" was made with Mr. Walsh by which he was to have the wardenship of the Tombs on consideration of letting General Bryce go to congress in his stead. Whether Mr. Walsh would have been more of a public scandal as a representative in congress than as warden of the Tombs is not worth discussing, but it is unquestionable that more than half the power of the "disreputable element" in our politics comes from the readiness of the so-called "respectable element" to dicker with and buy them.

Mr. Potter on Mayor Hewitt's Plan.

Mr. Orlando B. Potter is a citizen of New York who differs from most other citizens in that he really owns a part of New York. Not only can he eat, sleep, sit around, and transact his business in the city without leave asked from any man, but he is in a position to levy a tax on a very considerable number of his less fortunate fellow citizens for the enjoyment of those franchises. Mr. Potter, in short, has what is called a stake in the country, and a very considerable stake it is. Under these circumstances Mr. Potter has felt it a duty to go to Albany and tell the senate committee on railroads what he thinks about Mayor Hewitt's scheme for rapid transit in New York.

Mr. Potter objects to Mayor Hewitt's plan because it would permit the mayor to control "the property interests of its citizens." He also thinks that as the present rapid transit roads pay taxes toward the support of the city, it would be a terrible injustice for the city to force them to compete with roads which, paying no taxes, could be operated at less expense. He is of opinion, too, that there might be danger of dishonest administration, that property along Broadway might be depreciated in value, and that the city couldn't borrow funds at three per cent. Altogether Mr. Orlando B. Potter doesn't like the idea, and would much prefer that things should be left as they are.

What is noticeable about Mr. Potter's speech before the senate committee is, not the somewhat trifling objections he advances, but the tone of self assertion and class assertion that runs through it. He poses as a member of an oligarchy, and not in the least as a citizen of a democracy. He feels that in any question affecting the government and administration of New York city the only interests proper to be consulted are those of the land owners. He has a confused idea that the ownership of a few thousand square feet of New York's surface makes him a useful citizen, whose counsel should be sought about city affairs, and whose advice should be carefully heeded. It would probably astonish him to be told that a disinherited resident of an east side tenement house has as much right to a voice in city affairs as himself. He regards the Declaration of Independence, like the sermon on the mount, as "a tissue of glittering generalities."

More Protection Wanted. Boston is importing beans. It's dreadful to think of—terrible to have to believe—but the customs returns can't lie. And the customs returns show that 67,860 bushels of beans have been brought into Boston from foreign ports within the past three months. And this in spite of a ten per cent duty! What won't the pauper labor of Europe and Nova Scotia do next? We had become resigned to potatoes and cabbage from Germany, and eggs from Denmark and elsewhere, but the bean should have been held sacred. The need of the hour is a higher duty on beans.

A Blow at the Fishing Industry. Fisherman's luck has passed into a proverb, but the luck of the American fisherman is too hard for even a proverb to do justice to it. Not content with trampling on his rights in the most barefaced manner, refusing to blow Canada out of water for his satisfaction, and shamelessly allowing foreign caught fish to be landed and sold on mere payment of a tariff fine—not content with all this, the wicked democratic free trade government of the United States last week struck a foul blow at his very existence and absolutely forbade him to come into the country. A vessel arrived at Boston from Liverpool, Nova Scotia, having on board two entire crews of American fishermen—true blue-nosed Nova Scotians, every man of them—one intended for the schooner Minette, and one for the schooner Iolanthe. Will it be believed that the collector of the port actually refused these American fishermen permission to land, on the paltry pretense that they were imported contract laborers, and sent them back to Nova Scotia?

There are two things necessary to a well developed fishing industry—fish and fishermen. If Canada refuses to let us take the first, and our own government forbids us furnishing us with the second, our fishing industry is doomed to extinction. Let Congress look to it.

The World's Advertising Contest.

The New York *World* has adopted a novel method of demonstrating the value of its advertising columns. It offered a series of rewards—\$50, \$25 and \$15—to the advertisers receiving the largest number of replies to bona fide advertisements during the month of March; each advertisement to be inserted but once, and the

letters received in reply to be turned over to the *World* for verification and counting. The result of this unique contest was announced in the *World* of Sunday last.

A single insertion of a four line advertisement for a young man to fill a position of trust at a salary of \$1,200, with good prospects, brought 913 applications. A call for two men and a boy for office and store work—men to be willing to work till 8 p. m. every second Tuesday, salary \$15—was answered by 802 men and boys. And an announcement that a clerk was wanted at \$10 a week resulted in 743 applications for the situation.

Judging from these figures, a man or boy has about as much chance of obtaining employment in New York as of drawing a prize in the Louisiana lottery. And yet there ought to be no want of work in New York. Outside the circle of fashionable society, there is probably not a man standing idle in the city to-day who cannot do something that plenty of other people want done, and who does not need plenty of things that other idle people can do. Why should there be any idle people?

Convict Camp Life.

The horrors of exile in Siberia are well matched, if not surpassed, by those of convict camp life in Arkansas. The board of penitentiary commissioners of that state has made an investigation into the condition of the convicts at a single mining camp, the result of which is given in the *Memphis Appeal*. It was found that the convicts were worked more than ten hours a day in badly ventilated mines and places dangerous to health and life; that they were insufficiently clothed, poorly fed, forced to work on Sunday and refused hospital accommodation. The *Appeal*, commenting on the report, remarks that the fault is not in the board of commissioners, but in the law, which makes living human bodies the subjects of competitive hire and thus puts a premium on rapacity. "The state that works its convicts on the leased camp system," says the *Appeal*, "will inevitably be disgraced." We are much of the *Appeal's* opinion.

The United Labor Party.

The state executive committee has notified the members of the state committee to call congressional conventions in their respective districts for the purpose of electing delegates to the Cincinnati conference. The basis of representation in these conventions will be: For the first fourteen districts, one delegate for each 100 votes or fraction thereof cast for Henry George at the last election; and for the remaining twenty districts, one delegate for each 25 votes or cast. If any committee man fails to call a convention in his district, the state executive committee is to do so in his stead; or, if the emergency shall seem to require it, they shall designate the delegates to the national conference, who must be residents of the congressional district for which they are appointed.

WAKING UP A PENNSYLVANIA TOWN.

Single Tax Men at Edge Hill Village Held a Big Meeting and Preach the True Gospel.

A rousing meeting was held at Edge Hill village, Montgomery county, Pa., Saturday evening, April 14, under the auspices of the single tax reform club of that place. Zachman's neat little hall was filled by workmen of the vicinity in consequence of the efforts of Messrs. Hunt, Callan, McCormack, and the Stearns Bros., druggists. These are all earnest men, not muzzled by fear or self-interest, but openly advocating our cause. Moses Stearns says "I am no Nicodemus; I talk the doctrine to my customers whether they like it or not, whether I lose custom or not." Mr. Hunt, who presided, is a property owner, but he sees clearly that he would not lose anything by shifting taxes from his houses to his land, and that he would gain much in obtaining the full fruits of his labor instead of a part as at present. Mr. Callan is secretary of the club that organized the meeting. He is strongly opposed to separate political action. Mr. McCormack takes the same attitude, and states that the democrats thereabouts regard single tax reform with much favor since we have struck out straight from the shoulder at the tariff abomination.

Richard Chambers of Philadelphia, in addressing the meeting, said that he believed, as the result of twelve years' experience in the labor movement, that strikes and boycotts could not have lasting effect, combinations of labor being overmatched by combinations of monopoly. He lay with the ballot, by which all taxation could be removed from the shoulders of the industrious and placed upon monopoly—upon land values.

Another speaker from Philadelphia, H. V. Hettzel, spoke in the same strain. He said that taxing land up to its full rental value would kill land monopoly, and with that would die many other monopolies. This remedy could only be applied through political action. If workmen are averse to this they should bear in mind the story of the party of Maine lumbermen, none of whom wished to work and paid for their lumber by their number by lot, who consented to do the cooking on condition that the first one who grumbled at the fare should take his place. He was a wretched cook. He got up the first meal by boiling salt meat and fish, potatoes, cabbage, beans, onions, etc., in one pot and serving the combination half cooked. The first one who tried it said, "That's the blank, blindest mess I ever tasted—but I like it." And so said the others, to escape cooking. Workmen, said Mr. Hettzel, do likewise. Their old party political cooks have provided them for years with a most wretched bill of fare, but rather than do the cooking themselves they eat away with a very face and declare they like it. If they want good food they will have to do the cooking themselves.

All the speeches were to the point and had telling effect, and the meeting was a complete success.

J. C. FROST.

A Big Tariff Reform Meeting in Philadelphia.

A tariff reform meeting of workmen will be held under the auspices of the workmen's tariff reform association No. 1 of Philadelphia, in St. Michael's T. A. B. hall, Germantown avenue, above Columbia avenue, on Tuesday evening, April 24, 1888. The meeting will be addressed by Thomas G. Shearman and Everett P. Wheeler of New York and others. Congressmen Raynor of Maryland and also expected to speak. Manufacturers who are in favor of tariff reform will be heard from. The association meets at northwest corner Front and Berks streets every Tuesday evening. Discussions are free. All are invited.

Dover Beach.

Matthew Arnold, died in Liverpool April 13. The sea is calm to-night, The tide is full, the moon lies fair Upon the straits; on the French coast the light Gleams and is gone; the cliffs of England stand, Glimmering and vast out in the tranquil bay. Come to the window, sweet is the night air! Only from the long line of spray, Where the ebbs meet the moon-blanced sand, Listen! you hear the grating roar Of pebbles, which the waves suck back and fling.

At their return, up the high strand, Begin and cease, and then again begin, With tremulous cadence slow, and bring The eternal note of sadness in. Sophocles long ago Heard it of the *Ægean*, and he brought Into his mind the turbid ebb and flow Of human misery; you Find also in the sound a thought, Hearing it by this distant northern sea. The sea of faith Was once too at the full, and round earth's shore Lay like the folds of a bright girdle furled; But now I only hear Its melancholy, long withdrawing roar, Retreating, to the breath Of the night wind down the vast edges drear And naked shingles of the world.

Ah, love, let us be true To one another! for the world which seems To lie before us like a land of dreams, So various, so beautiful, so new, Hath really neither joy, nor love, nor light, Nor certitude, nor peace, nor help for pain; And we are here as on a darkling plain, Swept with confused alarms of struggle and flight, Where ignorant armies clash by night.

Shaking Things Up in Jersey City.

JERSEY CITY, April 16.—Since the hot debate here last week as to whether "a protective tariff has aided in promoting our manufactures, urging industries," and whether "its continuance is essential to the prosperity of the country," between ex-Judge Morrison of Indiana for the affirmative and Joseph Dana Miller of Jersey City for the negative, there has been considerable discussion on the subject. Newspaper reports and reports of those who were there have excited no small amount of interest, and single tax men are busily fanning the embers into a flame. Arguments used and claims made on the protectionist side have aroused the suspicion of men who hitherto thought they were protectionists. We do not propose to let the matter rest here, but shall carry on the good fight until we set the whole city thinking.

SOCIETY NOTES.

The late Emperor William, though he lived for his country, also paid careful attention to the "main chance." His majesty, "resting in God," died worth 51,000,000 marks (\$12,750,000).

Paul Schwartz, seventeen years old, swallowed a dose of phosphorus in the Spencer house, No. 93 Bowers. He screamed with pain and was found rolling on the floor. He has been in the country two months and failed to secure work. The day before he had purchased two newspapers, and after reading the want columns remarked, "I am afraid I shall never be able to get a job to do." He then bought and swallowed poison.

The Princess Wilhelmine, the little heiress to the throne of the Netherlands, was recently sledge riding with her mother when they came upon a party of children snow-balling. The princess asked to be allowed to join them, and the queen gave her permission at once. The royal sledge waited for half an hour while the future queen of the Netherlands took her share in the mutual snow-pounding, which was going forward. The little princess, who has been christened to mingle in the sports and enjoyments of children of her own age.—[London Star.]

As a horse car was moving down Poplar street, in Memphis, it was boarded by four men, one of whom held a revolver to the driver's head while the rest robbed him of \$33. Poplar street is one of the most fashionable streets of Memphis. The men escaped. The gift of \$100,000 from Mr. William Massey of this city to the house of refuge to enable that institution to remove from its present location to the country, where the boys may be profitably employed on a farm, is not only unusually generous but also thoroughly practical. It will help the community by lessening the number of those who would otherwise be likely to swell the ranks of crime or mendacity. Mr. Massey's noble beneficence will assist many unfortunate boys into paths of industry and enable them to become valuable factors in the social and industrial development of the community.—[Philadelphia Record.]

Among the cases brought before a district court in New York a few days ago was an application for the eviction of Mrs. Pauline Able, who occupied a floor at No. 410 Water street, and owed \$1.50 rent. The woman appeared in court with her six children. She stated that her husband was in the insane asylum on Ward's island, that she was trying to support her children, was sick and couldn't pay the money. The judge and lawyers made up a purse and paid her rent, leaving something over for the woman's support. The landlord, Patrick O'Brien, was asked to waive his statutory costs, but refused.

The entrance hall is the biggest, the most imposing, the costliest and by long odds the handsomest apartment in a modern New York house of the first rank. New Yorkers of wealth and of the aristocratic type, the straight hall of the narrow block house where the stairs go straight up and the narrow passage to the back parlor and basement stairs go straight back. Instead they have made the hall the central feature of the establishment, to which, necessarily, everything else is subordinated. The new type of hall is elaborate in its architectural features, richly antique in its furnishings, and if the mistress of the house has had any taste whatever for large decorative effects, it is upon the hall that she lavishes them. The hall, indeed, is a much of a lobby that people build new houses in order to have halls.—[Brooklyn Review and Record.]

The Pittsburgh poorhouse now contains two hundred pauper inmates, for whom the city pays at the rate of \$3 a week each. The overcrowding is so great that many of the inmates are compelled to sleep on the floor, and those afflicted with infectious diseases mingle freely with the others. Surgical operations have to be performed in the dining room table. The other day a man had an arm amputated in full view of the entire population.

Senator Stanford's mausoleum, which will be finished this year, will cost \$100,000.

The latest craze in Philadelphia society is said to be the "poverty party." The guests appear in garments carefully old, and of unfashionable materials and cut. The music is furnished by colored men with tin lidles. The rooms are lighted with tallow dips, and everything is arranged to produce the effect of poverty, the supper consisting of bread and herring, with occasionally beer. The "poverty parties" are said to be very enjoyable. They are attended only by amateurs in poverty. Professionals are not admitted.

A New York man calls \$1,000,000 only "respectable poverty."

A dog in Brooklyn, belonging to Dr. Taylor, recently had a cavity in one of its teeth filled with gold.

Miss Jennie Flood, daughter of the California millionaire, is said to possess \$5,000,000 in her own name.

Chicago and New York.

SPIRIT PHENOMENA.

I am not a spiritualist, and my experience with what are called spirit phenomena is very limited, but I have had enough such experience to appreciate the absurdity of current exposures of mediums and to be disposed to the belief that there is, perhaps, an unknown force that operates in at least some so called spirit manifestations. I have a vivid recollection, to begin with, of the wonderful stories which an elderly but muscular and incredulous relative used to tell of the way in which he was dragged around his own room in the early days of spiritualism by a table he was trying to hold. There was no discernible human agency except the contact of a medium's hand with the surface of the table, so he said, and I do not believe he misrepresents it. If it had been a case of rapping or slate writing I might suppose he was deceived, but I cannot believe he merely imagined that he was dragged about the room in the way he described. Either he falsified or he was an actor in a remarkable occurrence for which there is no known explanation. I know that he did not falsify.

Fraud is frequently practiced in the name of spiritualism, but so far as my experience goes it is very transparent fraud. About eight years ago I visited a materializing medium, accompanied by a friend. My friend, though not a performer, was a student of legerdemain and expert at the detection of sleight of hand. We went upon this expedition for the fun there might be in it, neither of us having had any previous experience in spiritualism other than of the table rapping and slate writing kind. On arriving at the materializing medium's quarters we found a small company waiting for the performance to begin. An open cabinet stood between the two street windows, and the visitors were invited to inspect it. It was about three feet wide and two deep, and utterly destitute of any contrivance, so far as I could see. At the appointed hour the company were asked to sit in a semi-circle some ten feet away from the cabinet, clapping hands. The lights were put out, and a small oil lamp, turned low, was placed in the rear of the room, its dim light made dimmer with a red shade. The medium, a young man, pulled a black curtain, part of the drapery of one side of the cabinet, across one window, and another black curtain, part of the drapery of the other side of the cabinet, across the other window. He explained that this was to keep out the street light.

Having thus completed his arrangements, the medium entered the cabinet, drawing a curtain across the front of it, and for a few minutes one of the visitors played the piano. Then the spirits came. In the dim, reddish light, I could just distinguish a floating figure in white. It glided past me, almost touching me, and I might have touched it; but when I tried to release my hands to do so my neighbors on either side tightened their grasp. The manifestations continued in this way for some minutes. One spirit would retire into the cabinet and another would come out, the piano being played between the exits and entrances.

But after a while the programme was changed. The ruling spirit, an Indian chief, began to talk, and finally called sitters in the circle, one at a time, up to the cabinet. I was among the chosen ones. As I left my chair I determined to grab the spirit if it came near enough to me; but I miscalculated my opportunity. The ceremonies were presided over by a perfect Amazon of a woman. She was nearly six feet tall and stout in proportion, with a grip like a vise. Taking my right hand in her right and my left in her left, she stood on my left side, she had what would have been an advantage in a struggle with a stronger man than I. Shortly a spirit appeared. I was incredulous. I had been all along. But as the features of the spirit, which approached with a swaying movement to within a foot and a half of me, became clearer in outline, I recognized my friend's dead wife. So positive was the recognition that my incredulity vanished in spite of me, and I was about to speak, when my Amazon custodian informed me in a stage whisper that it was face to face with the spirit of Dr. Kane. Then my incredulity returned, to be irrevocably confirmed when "Dr. Kane," waving his hand by way of parting salute, disclosed to my sight a white muslin bandage wrapped about his hand, precisely as before the performance I had observed the medium's hand was wrapped.

When we left the room of the medium my friend asked my opinion, and I told him it was a fraud, at the same time giving him my experience. "Of course it is a fraud," he said; "I detected that at once. The room was darkened to give a ghostly appearance to the figures. The curtains were pulled across the windows, not to keep out the street light, but to make two dressing rooms for the medium. If you could have got behind those curtains you would have found a space of more than a foot between them and the wall, and would have seen masks and robes hanging from them. The piano was played to drown any noise which the medium might accidentally make in effecting his changes. It is the simplest form of trickery."

This is the kind of exhibition which the rough and ready exposers of spiritualism witness, if we are to judge by the transparent character of the performances they describe. But there are mediumistic exhibitions which, supposing them to be produced by the skill of the magician, are not so easily exposed, and for which the usual explanations, good enough for fraudulent performances of the kind I have just described, are no explanations at all. One of these I witnessed shortly prior to my introduction to "the spirit of Dr. Kane."

I had been told of a man named Phillips who was a wonderful slate writing medium. Having never seen any spirit slate writing I determined to get an hour's amusement out of Phillips. Professing to be a reporter, I asked for some tests for publication. There is no reasonable prob-

ability that he had ever seen or heard of me. Seating me at a small table in the center of the room, he took a position about ten feet away, after telling me to write a name on each of several pieces of paper, and upon writing it to roll the paper up into a pellet. I followed his instructions, and having lost a near relative, naturally wrote her name (Mary Brown) upon one of the slips. I made fourteen or fifteen pellets, each with a name, some fictitious, some of living people and some of dead people.

The pellets being bunched on the center of the table, Phillips stepped up and shuffled them with his fingers. If there was any sleight of hand it was there, for at no other time was he within ten feet of the table. I may add here that we had had no conversation and no "pumping" was done. That I remember distinctly, for I went expecting and prepared to be "pumped."

Having retired to his former position after shuffling the pellets, Phillips told me to take them up one at a time and if I heard one or two raps on the table to lay the pellet down, but if I heard three to hold it. One by one I took the pellets up, but no raps came until I had picked up the seventh or eighth, when three distinct raps were made on the top of the table and directly under my hand. I am prepared to believe that all this was a trick and unwilling to believe that any spirit was an actor in the affair, but no one can make me believe that Phillips made those raps with his knee joints or his toe joints or his finger nails. They were made directly upon the table and directly under my hand. Unless the table was a trick table the raps were made by some occult force, and if it was a trick table I do not understand how he produced similar raps under similar conditions on a stranger's table, in a stranger's house, as he subsequently did.

When the medium heard the raps he came forward, and, sitting in front of me while I held the pellet in my hand, he wrote the name of the relative whom I had recently lost—"Mary Brown." Upon unrolling the pellet it proved to be the particular one on which I had written Mary Brown's name.

It seemed remarkable to me that this stranger, whether by trick or not, should have selected that particular name for his test. It was remarkable that he should have known which pellet to indicate by the raps. It was remarkable that he was able to make the raps at all. I do not accept the spiritual explanation, but I am quite as positively compelled to reject all the anti-spiritual explanations I have ever read or heard of this phase of mediumship.

At the same interview Phillips made "tests" even more wonderful; but as we entered into general conversation after the first experiment, prior to which we had not conversed at all, I am not so sure that there was no "pumping" for the other experiments.

Impressed with the mystery of Phillips's exhibition, I related it in detail to my friend who so readily discovered and explained the materializing fraud. He was just as ready with an explanation of Phillips's fraud. He knew how Foster "worked the pellet dodge," as he expressed it, and he was sure that Phillips was only a base imitator of Foster. And as for the slate writing—for Phillips had given me an exhibition of that—why it was perfectly simple: the slates were changed by sleight of hand. No! Then Phillips had a small piece of pencil concealed between his finger nail and the finger with which he wrote. Impossible! Well, there were a variety of ways in which the trick might be performed, but it was probably in one of these two, and if I had been familiar with magic I should have detected it; but, of course, I couldn't be expected to know how a sleight of hand performer does his work, and it was no wonder perhaps that I should be dazed at what to the magician is in the very alphabet of his profession. My friend would go with me to Phillips, and I should see how the impostor would be put to shame.

So one afternoon we called upon the medium. As before, there was no preliminary conversation. My experience had been published, however, and it was quite possible for the medium to have traced us both and learned somewhat of our associations; but that is unimportant. The exhibition was not so remarkable in every respect as on the occasion of my visit alone; but when we came away my friend had no explanation for what he had seen. He abandoned the sleight of hand theory, and I was convinced again of the unsoundness of the little piece of pencil under the finger nail theory.

How could my friend maintain the sleight of hand theory when he himself put two slates, on which he saw there was no writing, face to face, and held them in position with his own hand, and yet found intelligible writing on the inside surface of one of them when he took them apart? True, they were under the table for a time, and the medium held them together, or pretended to, at one end; but my friend held them at the other end, and they never passed from his grasp from the time when there was not a scratch on them until he took them apart to find the writing there.

And how could I accept the pencil under the finger nail theory? At one time Phillips held a single slate with its edge against my friend's forehead. I could see the slate distinctly and every movement that Phillips might have made; and though he made no movement with hand or finger, scratching on the slate was distinctly audible, and it bore a communication on its face when the medium withdrew it.

It is needless to say that these slate communications at both interviews were sheer nonsense. Every reader of "Spiritual Communications" will recognize that characteristic. But that anything should be written, that excited our interest. My friend's legerdemain had left him clear in the lurch; still his mind reverted continually to that mode of explanation. The slates might be trick slates, or—well, anyhow, he would like to see the exhibition in his own room and with his own slates. To his

surprise, Phillips readily assented to the test and a day was set.

In anticipation of the medium's visit I bought two cheap school slates, and carried them to my friend's room. When Phillips arrived, a small sewing table, part of the furniture of the room, was placed in the middle of the floor. Several experiments were tried, but I shall relate only one. Phillips called for the slates, which I handed to him in the original wrapping paper in which they came to me. He unwrapped them in my presence, and, carrying them to the wash basin, washed them with a sponge. Here was the opportunity—the only opportunity—for trickery, if there was trickery. My friend has always insisted that, on pretense of washing the slates, the medium might have written on them with some kind of magical pencil the writing from which would develop under certain conditions, on the principle of invisible ink. But the explanation does not explain what followed, and was never really satisfactory to my friend.

When the slates were washed, Phillips laid them upon a sofa directly opposite to me, and I kept my eyes upon them. He waited until they were dried, and then taking them up was about to wrap them in paper; but I stopped him to make a re-examination of the slates, which I did with care. There was not a scratch on either side of either of them. Having satisfied myself and my friend of that, I put the slates together face to face and laid them upon the paper which was spread upon the table, whereupon Phillips, without touching the slates, rolled the paper around them and handed the package to me. While I held it he pretended that the spirits instructed us to put it into a drawer of the table. The key of the drawer being furnished by my friend, I unlocked it and placing the package inside, locked the drawer again. I am as positive as that I now write, that when those slates were placed in that drawer there was no writing upon them.

It must have been fifteen minutes before the drawer was again unlocked. Meantime we conversed about a variety of subjects; but our conversation turned chiefly upon the fact that so-called spirit communications through Christian mediums spoke frequently of Jesus as the Christ, and the question was asked whether there were any Jewish mediums, the suggestion being that if an orthodox Jew, acting as a medium, should receive similar communications it might be an argument against certain theories respecting spiritualism. The conversation has no bearing of importance except that the word *Christ* was several times repeated, and at its close I said: "Well, I do not care what may be written; if there is a single intelligible sentence on the slates when we take them out, I shall be satisfied that some force which we do not understand has produced the result," or words to that effect. Let it be remembered that the conversation occurred while the slates were under lock and key, and no such conversation had preceded their deposit in the drawer.

Phillips told me to unlock the drawer. I did so. I took out the package. I unwrapped it. Phillips did not touch the package or the slates. I took them apart myself and found written in plain characters on the face of one of them, this letter:

What difference does it make what we write? Is it not sufficient proof of spirit power that we write at all?

Yours, CHRIST.

It may be an important fact that Phillips was addicted to the habit of chewing chalk. At frequent intervals during his visit he would take a chalk crayon from his pocket and bite off a small piece, which he would chew for a while, and then repeat the operation. I can surmise a close connection between slate writing and the chalk chewing habit in a slate writing medium; but I can only surmise.

It is frequently said that sleight of hand performers will repeat the "tests" of any medium if they have an opportunity to observe them. An opportunity to do this with the "test" I have just described was offered to Hermann in my presence. When it was described to him he promptly offered to do it, if he could see it done. But when he was told that he must do it in my friend's room and with his table and slates, Hermann just as promptly replied: "No; in my room and with my table and slates!"

On one occasion I visited a table tipping medium with two friends, both skeptics. We agreed that in no way would we let the medium discover our identity. It was well that we had taken the precaution, for the pump was put in operation and kept in operation while we were there. But the well was dry—nothing was learned by the medium, and in consequence, perhaps, the sitting was very unsatisfactory.

A spirit, however, that of a school mate of fifteen years before, did move the medium to communicate with me. I asked where we went to school together, but every effort to spell out the name of the place was ineffectual. I had no better luck in an attempt to get the surname of my former school mate, although the first name was given. I asked at how many places we went to school together and the answer was "Two." I remembered one school mate bearing that name who had been at school with me in two different villages, and asked why we had gone to school in two places. The answer was, "Because the school house burned down."

That was true. I then asked my spirit school mate the cause and the time of her death, for I had supposed she was still living. I did not confide my supposition to the medium, however. The reply to that question was that she had died about a year before of a peculiar throat disease which she tried to describe or name but could not.

There was enough in this to induce me to make inquiries and I learned the fact to be that the school mate I had in mind, and whose first name was given by the medium, was still alive; but that her sister, having a different first name, who had also gone to school with me in two different villages and for the same reason, namely, the burning of the school house, had died about a year before of a throat disease, the

character of which the village doctor did not understand.

This medium had a friend, a young man, whom he invited into the circle with us. He had nothing to say and seemed to take no interest in what was going on. I noticed that whenever the table tipped it tipped in his direction. This had been repeated often enough to confirm my suspicions. I watched my opportunity, and when the table was in the midst of an affirmative tip—three times—I bore heavily on my side of the table, and had the satisfaction of seeing the hand of the medium's friend slip. That particular tip was not completed. It was plain enough that the friend did the tipping and the medium was a fraud.

But the most convincing evidence that spirit phenomena are probably due to some unknown force is not the exhibitions of professional mediums, who may deceive, who frequently have excellent opportunities for deception, and who certainly have what criminal lawyers call "motives," but the experiments of personal friends in whose honor one has confidence, and who are neither professional mediums nor spiritualists. In such experiments I have had a little experience, though not much.

I recall some of these exhibited in a private house among four or five mutual friends, none of them spiritualists, by a man whose name is a voucher to all who know him for his honor and veracity. The table used was a light one, which he might have tipped without apparent exertion. But he could not have moved it around the room by the mere touch of his finger, and if he could, his assurance that he did not, and that he was ignorant of the cause of its movements, would have been sufficient.

The party was around the table for some minutes with hands flat upon it. Pretty soon it began to tip. Then it answered questions yes or no by single or triple tips. Then it spelled out words and sentences by tipping at the call of the alphabet. These sentences were just as senseless as any "spirit" communication, but they were sentences. After a while, when the table got warmed up to its work, it would walk around the room, dance, climb up into the lap of one or another of the persons present, describe figures on the floor, and so on. If the "medium" (I must call him that for want of a better term) took his hand off the table stepped; but if he put so much as the tip of his finger upon it, it would move, tip, dance and climb as before.

Of these experiments I am driven to the alternative of believing that they proved some unknown and possibly undeveloped force, or that a man who had no motive, and but little opportunity for deception, and whose reputation for truthfulness in the most trivial matters and minute particulars is so universal among his acquaintances that they would not believe him capable of even a joke that involved deceit, is a conscienceless liar. I prefer to believe that what he said was true. He said that while he did not attribute the phenomena to any supernatural cause, he was wholly ignorant of what the cause was, and did not himself consciously produce any of the effects we had witnessed.

LOUIS F. POST.

The Prosperity Plan for Protection.

The St. Paul Labor Echo prints the following extract from an editorial in the Pioneer Press of that city:

Whatever may be said of the theoretical injustice of the inequalities and absurdities of a protective tariff, the magnitude of the prosperity of the country during the past twenty-five years, its enormous advance in wealth, and in the wide diffusion of the means of comfortable and happy subsistence among the masses of the people, is a fact which outweighs the most plausible of theories in the judgment of the American people.

And then in juxtaposition it prints the following item from the local page of the very same issue of the Pioneer Press:

Of late the police have been keeping pretty close watch of the legions of street beggars, who have been so indefatigable in their attentions to the benevolent passers by during the past winter. At times one has to wade in the gutter in a journey of a few blocks. All those caught soliciting alms to tide them over the present financial depression are summarily hustled off to the lockup, and on the next day would find their way over the prairie to the work house.

The Labor Echo goes on to make savage comments upon protection cant; but comments are really unnecessary.

The Bearings of This Observation Lays in the Application On It.

Cheap things, the tariff reformers want. Well, if a man can make his pair of shoes for himself, better than any he could buy, and in such a way that would otherwise be unemployed, can he possibly buy cheaper shoes at any price? Why, he would be just so much out of pocket, if his neighbor should sell him a line pair of shoes for sixpence.

MISS AGATHA MUNIER IS NOW forming classes for instruction in vocal sight reading for ladies and gentlemen, as well as in solo singing in all its branches, and in elocution. For terms, etc., address MISS MUNIER, 23 East Thirty-second street, New York.

KANSAS STATE LECTURER.—THE undersigned state lecturer and member of the state central committee is now ready to respond to calls for lectures in the state of Kansas. Address Rev. W. M. GOODRICH, Box 331, Lawrence, Kan.

NOTICE.—Those who believe that the public revenues should be raised by a single direct tax upon poll tax values, and who favor the holding of a National Conference, are requested to send addresses immediately to S. J. WILLIAMS, Vincennes, Ind.

THE DEMOCRAT.—A RADICAL REVIEW MONTHLY. The Democrat advocates Land Resumption and those reforms which are necessary to make the English people a free people. It asks "compensation" not for those who have benefited by unjust legislation, but for those who have suffered thereby. For one dollar the Democrat is supplied for 18 months to any address in the United States or Canada. Address 3 New Bridge Street, London, E. C.

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